

Walnut

(*Juglans* spp. — *Black Walnut*, *English Walnut*, *Hybrids*)

Walnuts are valued for their **shade**, **edible nuts**, and **bold foliage**, but in Colorado they face several challenges including **thousand cankers disease** (serious), **walnut caterpillars**, **aphids**, **anthracnose**, **scale**, and **environmental stress** such as drought and alkaline soil.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | 🌻 Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Thousand cankers disease (TCD)	Fungus + beetle	Summer–Fall	🌻 🍂
Walnut twig beetle	Insect/borer	Summer	🌻
Anthracnose (leaf blight)	Fungus	Spring–Summer	🌸 🌻
Aphids (walnut aphid)	Insect	Spring–Fall	🌸 🌻 🍂
Walnut caterpillar	Insect	Summer–Fall	🌻 🍂
Scale insects	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	🌸 ❄️

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Environmental stress (heat/drought)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 
Winter injury	Weather	Winter–Spring	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Thousand Cankers Disease (Major Threat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing leaves • Thinning canopy • Branch dieback • Tiny dark cankers under bark • Spread by walnut twig beetle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effective cure • Deep watering during drought • Remove severely affected trees • Avoid moving walnut firewood (prevents spread)
Walnut Twig Beetle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiny pinholes in bark • Brown frass in crevices • Part of TCD complex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same management as TCD • Professional monitoring recommended
Anthracnose (Leaf Blight)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown or black leaf spots • Early leaf drop mid–late summer • Reduced nut production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake fallen leaves • Increase airflow • Fungicide only in severe, recurring cases
Walnut Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy honeydew dripping • Sooty mold • Sticky vehicles & patios below tree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage • Encourage beneficial insects • Systemic treatment if messy or severe
Walnut Caterpillar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large clusters of black-and-white striped larvae • Patchy defoliation • Webbing not present (unlike tent caterpillar) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand-remove larvae when small • Professional treatment for heavy infestations

Problem

Common Symptoms

Treatment & Management

Scale

- Small bumps on stems
- Honeydew, yellowing leaves

- Dormant oil in late winter
- Treat crawler stage in spring
- Prune heavily infested twigs

Environmental Stress

- Leaf scorch
- Early yellowing
- Sparse canopy
- Reduced nut size

- Deep water every 2–3 weeks in summer
 - Mulch 2–4"* (not touching trunk)**
 - Avoid high-alkalinity soils when possible
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When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Progressive thinning and dieback (possible **Thousand Cankers Disease**)
- Numerous tiny bark holes with frass (twig beetle)
- Canopy browning during hot, dry periods (stress + risk factor for TCD)
- Heavy caterpillar defoliation
- Scale covering branches with honeydew and mold
- Large sections of early leaf drop each year

These issues may require **professional evaluation**, especially for suspected TCD.

● Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)

- Light anthracnose spotting
- Minor aphid honeydew
- Slight scorch in extreme heat

- Occasional early yellowing during drought
- A few scattered scale insects

Most mild issues resolve with **watering and seasonal changes**.